

November 10, 2020 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on November 10, 2020 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jim Woods, Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Police Chief Eddie Cassidy.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 6:30 PM. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Woods and seconded by Council Member Bowles with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: A. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by Subsection 29, and B. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the Closed Session. A motion was made by Council Member Woods; seconded by Council Member Bowles, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods. No action was taken out of the Closed Session

Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Vice Mayor Martin, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines and recognized social distancing recommendations.

Addendum - Hear information related to a possible redevelopment project at the City-owned building located at 62 Fayette Street - City Manager Towarnicki updated Council on the history of the building and introduced them to potential investors that are considering the building for a craft brewery location. Jason Alley and Michelle Jones detailed their plans for the location with the possibility of opening a restaurant and brewery. They shared information on their history with similar businesses in other locations. Vice Mayor Martin thanked them for considering the area and keeping the history alive. Council Member Bowles supports the

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project and is excited to see it come to fruition. Council Member Woods made a motion to recess as Council and convene as the Martinsville Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor. Housing Authority Member Bowles made the motion to execute a letter of intent granting Jones Alley Consulting an exclusive 120-day due diligence period, after which a lease-purchase agreement will be developed for consideration/approval by MRHA. Housing Authority Vice Chairman Martin seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. Housing Authority Member Woods made a motion to recess the Martinsville Redevelopment & Housing Authority and reconvene as City Council. Authority Member Bowles seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

Approve minutes for the October 27, 2020 Meeting – Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Consider adoption on second reading an Ordinance allowing law enforcement to discharge firearms to kill coyotes – City Attorney Monday recapped the information from the previous meeting, stating that numerous residents have heard and seen coyotes within the City. Police Chief Cassady said that they were in the process of writing the policy, stating that the action taken will be on a case-to-case basis with safety as the priority. Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Council Member Woods, aye; Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye and Council Member Turner, aye.

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

ORDINANCE No. 2020-4

INCREASING COURTHOUSE SECURITY ASSESSMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on October 27, 2020, that Section 1-16 of the City Code is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

Sec. 1-16. - Special assessment for funding of courthouse security personnel as part of costs in criminal and traffic cases.

~~Ten dollars (\$10.00)~~ *Twenty dollars (\$20.00)* shall be assessed as part of the costs in each criminal and traffic case in the general district court of the city or in the circuit court of the city in which the defendant is convicted of a violation of any statute or ordinance, pursuant to the provisions of section 53.1-120D of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended. Such assessment shall be collected by the clerk of court in which the case is heard, remitted to the city treasurer and held by such treasurer subject to appropriation by this council to the sheriff's office for the funding of courthouse security personnel. This assessment shall be in addition to all other costs prescribed by law.

(Ord. No. 2002-2, 5-14-2002; Ord. No. 2007-02, 6-5-2007)

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider adoption on first reading, Ordinance 2020-6, adding Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court to Section 1-16 of the City Code regarding charging courthouse security fees –
City Attorney Monday reminded Council that they previously approved these fees for the other two courts, but the J&DR court was not included nor have they been for years. Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading, Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye and Council Member Turner, aye.

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

ORDINANCE No. 2020-6

ALLOWING JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT TO CHARGE
COURTHOUSE SECURITY ASSESSMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on December 8, 2020, that Section 1-16 of the City Code is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

Sec. 1-16. - Special assessment for funding of courthouse security personnel as part of costs in criminal and traffic cases.

Twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be assessed as part of the costs in each criminal and traffic case in the *juvenile and domestic relations court, the general district court of the city or in and* the circuit court of the city in which the defendant is convicted of a violation of any statute or ordinance, pursuant to the provisions of section 53.1-120D of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended. Such assessment shall be collected by the clerk of court in which the case is heard, remitted to the city treasurer and held by such treasurer subject to appropriation by this council to the sheriff's office for the funding of courthouse security personnel. This assessment shall be in addition to all other costs prescribed by law.

(Ord. No. 2002-2, 5-14-2002; Ord. No. 2007-02, 6-5-2007)

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider information related to the 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) list – Community Development Director Mark McCaskill explained that this copy is like a first reading, offering Council the opportunity to discuss and make changes to the list that will be voted on in December. The primary purpose of the list is to have a general list of project ideas in case of available grants or funding. Mayor Lawson asked Council to review and anything that needs to be added or adjusted, to please email McCaskill so that the list can be updated prior to the next meeting.

Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Incentivize small businesses (rentor/lease/evaluate)	EDA	\$900,000	\$900,000	Positive	80
Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Construct/ retrofit condos/apartments in Uptown	EDA DHCD VHCA City	\$1,000,000 \$300,000 \$500,000 \$200,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	15
Neighborhood Revitalization Project West End/Pine Hall Rd Neighborhood-Martinsville	1/IV housing rehab; creation of community space	COBG Local	\$1,000,000 \$250,000	\$1,250,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Purchase blighted properties on Claring Avenue and adaptively reuse	HUO/NSP HTC	\$700,000 \$300,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
Southside Community Park Upgrading-City of Martinsville	1/II Upgrade existing four (4) fields to accommodate youth and collegiate softball and baseball tournaments. This would include new lighting where necessary, upgrade concession stand and new sports surfaces.	DCR EDA ARC VTC Other	\$200,000 \$600,000 \$150,000 \$750,000 \$1,300,000	\$3,000,000	Positive	N/A
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV Purchase blighted properties, prepare site for development (Draper - West Church Street) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield EDA City	\$400,000 \$325,000 \$100,000	\$825,000	Unknown	100/Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Rives Road Site Development- full site development including A & E, site grading	EDA	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	Positive	400
Community Development Project -	1/II Further develop lot- at Clearview Business Park	EDA	\$750,000	\$750,000	Positive	200+

City of Martinsville	to prepare for companies- Parcels 2 & 4					
Community Development Project - City of Martinsville	1/IV Recruit manufacturers of Clean Energy Components to Martinsville Area and Enterprise Zone	EDA	\$100,000	\$100,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/III Upgrade, widen, and landscape Beaver Street from Fayette Street to Memorial Blvd - City of Martinsville	MAP-21 VHCA	\$800,000 \$50,000	\$850,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/I Prepare City-owned site at corner of Fayette & Beaver Sts for residential, educational or commercial development - Martinsville Area and Central Business District	EDA Local COBG Grants	\$380,000 \$200,000 \$1,000,000 \$2,000,000	\$3,580,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/III Write arts & cultural plan for Arts & Cultural District	NEA City ARC	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$32,000	\$82,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/III Enhance Fayette Area Business District facades/greenscape/ economic revitalization - Fayette Street from Moss Street to Memorial Blvd. Planning stipend for Citizens Design - CIRD	COBG Local CIRD Match - IRA	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000 \$35,000 \$10,000	\$2,045,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV Purchase blighted properties - prepare site for redevelopment (202 Cleveland Avenue) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield EDA City	\$900,000 \$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,900,000	Unknown	150 - Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/III Work with partners to develop an amphitheater on Depot Street	NEA ARC	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$100,000	Positive	5/Indirect

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Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Acquire and redevelop properties along commercial corridor for reuse	ARC CDBG EDA	\$250,000 \$2,000,000 \$1,000,000	\$3,250,000	Positive	50
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV Develop new (or redevelop existing) location in Uptown Martinsville to serve as community music venue.	IRF ARC HTC	\$600,000 \$200,000 \$300,000	\$1,100,000	Positive	5/indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Commonweath Corridor Enhancement & Pedestrian linkages to Uptown & Fayette Street	VDOT CDBG	\$1,000,000 \$500,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Purchase of West Church Street and/or Fayette Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II Purchase of Main Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/indirect
Minor Fiber Optic Expansion - City of Martinsville	1/II Citywide expansion of Minet Martinsville fiber optic system to reach businesses and homes	EDA Other Local	\$2,000,000 \$11,000,000 \$7,500,000	\$20,500,000	NA	NA
Community Development Project - Hooker Field Upgrades - City of Martinsville	1/II Upgrades to the concession, seating, and restroom areas at Hooker Field - covered seating, ADA compliant restrooms expanded press box/concession/office space	ARC ORC OTHER	\$200,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000	\$1,700,000	Positive	N/A

Virginia Museum of Natural History - City of Martinsville	1/II Construct Outdoor Education Pavilion in rear of VMNH, to include exhibits interpreting eastern North American forest ecology	EDA DCR Local	\$50,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	\$150,000	Positive	NA
Wilson Park Upgrading - City of Martinsville	1/IV Connection of outdoor education pavilion in rear of VMNH with a bridge, crossing over Oakdale Avenue, along with a 1,000 foot canopy loop into the grand old trees in the park.	EDA ARC Other	\$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	NA
Community Parks Upgrading - City of Martinsville	1/IV Upgrade nine (9) existing parks (Baldwin, Beaver Creek, Jackson Street, West End, J. Russell Mason, Chatham Heights, Cole & Carol St, Victor A. Lester, Spruce St.) to improve accessibility and safety. This would include new lighting where necessary, concession stands, age-appropriate playground equipment and new playing surfaces.	DCR ARC EDA Local	\$200,000 \$200,000 \$300,000 \$800,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	NA

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITY PROJECTS April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

PROJECT	PRIORITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Incentivize small businesses (interior makeover/renovator)	EDA	\$600,000	\$600,000
Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Construct/ retrofit condominiums in Uptown	EDA CHCD VHDA City	\$1,000,000 \$300,000 \$500,000 \$200,000	\$2,000,000
Neighborhood Revitalization Project - End Pine Hall Rd Neighborhood - Martinsville	1/IV	Housing rehab; creation of community space	CDBG Local	\$1,000,000 \$250,000	\$1,250,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Purchase blighted properties on Starting Avenue and adaptive reuse	HUD/NSP HTC	\$700,000 \$300,000	\$1,000,000
Southeast Community Park Upgrading-City of Martinsville	1/II	Upgrade existing four (4) fields to accommodate youth and collegiate softball and baseball tournaments. This would include new lighting where necessary, upgrade concession stand and new sports surfaces.	DCR EDA ARC VTC Other	\$200,000 \$600,000 \$150,000 \$750,000 \$1,300,000	\$3,000,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV	Purchase blighted properties, prepare site for development (Craper - West Church Street - City of Martinsville)	Brownfield EDA City	\$400,000 \$325,000 \$100,000	\$825,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Rives Road site development - full site development including A & E, site grading	EDA	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Further develop lots at Clearview Business Park to prepare for companies - Parcels 2 & 4	EDA	\$750,000	\$750,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV	Recruit manufacturers of Clean Energy Components to Martinsville Area and Eastern Zone	EDA	\$100,000	\$100,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Upgrade, widen, and landscape Beaver Street from Fayette Street to Memorial Blvd - City of Martinsville	MAP-21 VHDA	\$800,000 \$50,000	\$850,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Prepare City-owned site at corner of Fayette & Beaver Sts for residential, educational or commercial development - Martinsville Area and Central Business District	EDA Local CDBG	\$300,000 \$200,000 \$1,000,000	\$3,500,000

PROJECT	PRIORITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Martinsville			Grants	\$2,000,000	
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Write arts & cultural plan for Arts & Cultural District	NEA City ARC	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$32,000	\$82,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Enhance Fayette Area Business District facade/signage/ economic revitalization - Fayette Street from Moss Street to Memorial Blvd. Planning stipend for Citizens Design - CIRD	CDBG Local CIRD Match - JPL	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000 \$35,000 \$10,000	\$2,045,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV	Purchase blighted properties - prepare site for redevelopment (202 Cleveland Avenue) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield EDA City	\$600,000 \$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,600,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Work with partners to develop an amphitheater on Depot Street	NEA ARC	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$100,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Acquire and redevelop properties along commercial corridor for reuse	ARC CDBG EDA	\$250,000 \$2,000,000 \$1,000,000	\$3,250,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/IV	Develop new (or redevelop existing) location in Uptown Martinsville to serve as community music venue.	IRF ARC HTC	\$600,000 \$200,000 \$300,000	\$1,100,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Commonweath Corridor Enhancement & Pedestrian linkages to Uptown & Fayette Street	VDOT CDBG	\$1,000,000 \$500,000	\$1,500,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Purchase of West Church Street and/or Fayette Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/II	Purchase of Main Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000
Minor Fiber Optic Expansion - City of Martinsville	1/II	Citywide expansion of Minet Martinsville fiber optic system to reach businesses and homes	EDA Other Local	\$2,000,000 \$11,000,000 \$7,500,000	\$20,500,000
Community Development Project - Hooker Field Upgrades - City of Martinsville	1/II	Upgrades to the concession, seating, and restroom areas at Hooker Field - covered seating, ADA compliant restrooms expanded press box/concession/office space	DCR ORC OTHER	\$200,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000	\$1,700,000
Virginia Museum of Natural History - City of Martinsville	1/II	Construct Outdoor Education Pavilion in rear of VMNH, to include exhibits interpreting eastern North American	EDA DCR	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$100,000

PROJECT	PRIORITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Wilson Park Upgrading - City of Martinsville	1/IV	forest ecology	Local	\$50,000	
Wilson Park Upgrading - City of Martinsville	1/IV	Connection of outdoor education pavilion in rear of VMNH with a bridge, crossing over Oakdale Avenue, along with a 1,000 foot canopy loop into the grand old trees in the park.	EDA ARC Other	\$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000	\$2,000,000
Community Parks Upgrading - City of Martinsville	1/IV	Upgrade nine (9) existing parks (Baldwin, Beaver Creek, Jackson Street, West End, J. Russell Mason, Chatham Heights, Cole & Carol St, Victor A. Lester, Spruce St.) to improve accessibility and safety. This would include new lighting where necessary, concession stands, age-appropriate playground equipment and new playing surfaces.	DCR ARC EDA Local	\$200,000 \$200,000 \$300,000 \$800,000	\$1,500,000

ABBREVIATIONS:
 ARC = Appalachian Regional Commission
 CDBG = Community Development Block Grant
 CIT = Center for Innovative Technology
 DCR = Dept of Conservation & Recreation
 DOI = Virginia Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries
 DOD = VA Dept of Housing & Community Development
 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy
 EDA = Economic Development Administration
 EPA = Environmental Protection Agency, State & Tribal Assistance Grant
 FAA = Federal Aviation Administration
 FHWA = Federal Highway Administration
 GO Bonds = General Obligation Bonds
 HTO = Historic Tax Credits
 REBO = Rural Business Enterprise Grant
 USDA-RD = U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Rural Development
 USCAIP = US Community Adjustment & Investment Program
 IDA = Danville/Pittsylvania County Industrial Development Authority
 IRF = Industrial Revitalization Fund (through DHCD)
 Local Fdn = Local Foundations such as Danville Regional Foundation
 MBI = Major Employment Investment (VED/PTC)
 NEA = National Endowment for the Arts
 NSF = National Science Foundation
 PRVT = Private Investment
 SBA = U.S. Small Business Administration
 TBD = to be determined
 TEA-21 = VDOT Transportation Enhancement Act Program (Replaced with MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program)
 VDBA = VA Department of Business Assistance
 VTC = Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (Formerly Tobacco Identification & Community Revitalization Comm.)
 SERAP = Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.
 USACE = US Army Corps of Engineers
 HRIA = US Dept of Health & Human Services/Health Resources & Svcs. Admin.
 LWCF = Land & Water Conservation Fund
 SWCB = State Water Control Board
 WVWA = Western VA Water Authority
 HUD/NSP = Housing and Urban Development/Neighborhood Stabilization Program
 Local Fdn = Local Foundations such as Danville Regional Foundation
 USDA-RD = U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development
 VDA = Virginia Department of Aviation
 VASB = Virginia Shell Building Initiative
 VA-DOA = Virginia Dept of Aviation
 VDOT = VA Department of Transportation
 VDH = VA Department of Health
 VHDA = Virginia Housing Development Authority
 VHPF = Virginia Housing Partnership Fund
 VRA = Virginia Resources Authority
 VATC = Virginia Tourism Corporation
 VWP = Virginia Water Projects
 WQIP = Water Quality Improvement Funds (VA)
 WIA = Workforce Investment Act
 VAORPT = Virginia Dept. of Rail & Public Transportation
 VCC = Virginia Community Capital
 VACACS = Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 AEP = Appalachian Electric Power/Appalachian Power
 CIRD = Citizens' Institute on Rural Design (NEA Program)

PROJECT TYPES:
 Type I - Shovel Ready
 Type II - Final Planning Stage
 Type III - Early Planning Stage
 Type IV - Other Projects (USDA, CDBG, VDOT, etc.)
 Type V - Technical Assistance/Studies

Consider information related to the City's proposed 2021 Legislative Agenda – City Attorney

Monday explained that there is no action required at tonight's meeting. Staff makes no recommendations for changes or deletions but he asks Council if they have any changes to please let him know. He also noted that now is the time for citizens to offer suggestions for this list, and also by contacting Delegate Les Adams or Senator Bill Stanley, both are whom are very responsive to their constituents. Council will approve the list at the next meeting. Turner suggested that Council ask the General Assembly to make a Charter change to remove the provision for selling a utility that requires a referendum with only people who own property

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being allowed to vote. Monday explained that the Charter provision did not restrict voting to only those who own property but requires a super majority of voters in which a majority of property owners vote. Turner stated that he didn't feel that it was fair, referencing the Jim Crow laws that were put into place to limit poor people. No one seconded Councilman Turner's request but Council Member Bowles requested further discussion and consideration. Bowles said resource officers do an excellent job and she would like to add to the Legislative Agenda that the City supports keeping the funding for those resource officers. Vice Mayor Martin seconded Bowles request.



The City of Martinsville appreciates the efforts its legislators undertake at both the state and federal level on behalf of its citizens. Listed below are the City's priorities requested of its legislative delegation in 2020.

Virginia General Assembly

Transportation

1. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards. Any construction or upgrades to the I-73 corridor should begin on those sections passing through Henry County.
2. Continue to place priority on Route 58 improvements, particularly the section between Stuart and Hillsville, Virginia.
3. Increase VDOT funding for road construction and repaving.

Education

1. City Council endorses the concept asserted by Sen. Bill Stanley that the Virginia Constitution and United States Supreme Court precedent requires statewide parity in state funding for school construction, maintenance and operations.
2. City Council endorses the agenda proposed by the Martinsville City School System and also endorses the educational priorities adopted by Henry County, on behalf of its school system.
3. Oppose the imposition of unsided education mandates and in the event of revenue cuts by the Commonwealth opposes targeted cuts by the Commonwealth, instead preferring local decision making authority on where to make any such cuts.
4. Recognizing its potential to promote economic development within our community and region, continue support for the development and funding of the New College Institute in its current location in Uptown Martinsville; urge that any funding reductions to New College Institute, if considered, be minimized to the greatest extent possible; and support all partnership initiatives by The New College Institute with other institutions of higher learning.
5. Request the Commonwealth to fully fund the expenditures imposed upon local school systems by implementing the Standards of Quality.
6. Encourage the Commonwealth to continue or increase the current levels of financial support provided to Patrick Henry Community College.
7. Request the Commonwealth to provide incentives for consolidation of school systems.

Economic Development

1. Maintain current levels of funding for economic development incentives, including but not limited to the Governor's Opportunity Fund.
2. Enhance the authority granted to localities to address and eliminate blighted properties, and the formation of interstate compacts to allow expedited recourse against out-of-state property owners.
3. Increase funding levels for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.
4. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
5. Support continued tourism awareness initiatives in the Martinsville-Henry County region.

6. Expand local authority to designate Enterprise Zones and establish incentives.
7. Oppose efforts by Henry County PSA to reopen the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant, absent a regional study concluding that such is in the best interests of Martinsville-Henry County taxpayers, customer base, economic needs and state environmental policy.
8. Expand grants and resources available to fiscally stressed localities, and to business development entities in such localities, to aid in the encouragement or development of small and entrepreneurial businesses.
9. Support the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund, as a public-private initiative to improve nutrition and access to quality food, and enhance economic development by encouraging the development of grocery stores in neighborhoods where none exist.

Governance

1. Adopt the recommendations of the Virginia Commission on Local Government in its 2018 Annexation Moratorium Study, and urge the General Assembly to enact those recommendations in the 2019 Session.
2. Amend Code of Virginia 51.1-155.2 to allow Constitutional Offices, abolished by reversion of any city to town status, to take early VRS retirement, free of penalty.
3. Urge the General Assembly to conform the state tax code to the 2018 changes in the Federal income tax code.
4. Require full funding for HB 599 funds, in fulfillment of the Commonwealth's commitment to cities in return for their acquiescence in the annexation moratorium.
5. Require that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to the Virginia Retirement System, and refrain from borrowing from VRS funds.
6. Request the elimination of "local aid to the Commonwealth" in the state budget; local aid artificially inflates state revenues by shifting responsibility for cuts in vital services onto localities.
7. Elimination of all unfunded mandates from the Commonwealth to localities.
8. Oppose any elimination or alteration of local revenue streams, and specifically oppose any amendment to the current manner in which the Business Occupation and Licensing Tax and the Machinery and Tools Tax are levied, unless a replacement revenue stream, not subject to biennial appropriation, is guaranteed by the Commonwealth.
9. Preserve intact local authority to regulate zoning, land use, and regulation of the installation of wireless communication equipment.
10. Request at a minimum, level funding for operational requirements of the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.
11. Request that the General Assembly leaves intact the fire programs fund and the rescue squad assistance funds and not use these funds as a way to balance the state budget.
12. Request that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to constitutional officers.
13. Oppose any attempt to curtail the doctrine of sovereign immunity for localities.
14. Oppose any attempt to permit collective bargaining for state and local government employees.
15. Oppose any amendment of the existing burden of proof or process in local tax appeals cases.
16. Request authority to refund erroneously paid taxes at an interest rate which differs from that imposed on delinquencies, and to refund taxes erroneously paid through the fault of the taxpayer at no interest.
17. Support VML's endorsement of a JLARC study of assigning a proportional share of lottery sales revenue to the localities generating such sales.

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18. Require the Commonwealth to fund 100% of the per-diem costs of housing state inmates in local jails.
19. Support all state efforts to provide aid and support services to fiscally stressed localities, but oppose any attempts to interfere with localities' right to solve their own financial problems locally.
20. Support the alteration of award criteria in the "REACH Virginia" and all other VHDA programs to a per-capita income-based model.

United States Congress

1. Request the addition of the urban center of micropolitan statistical areas to the eligibility list of "Entitlement Cities."
2. Oppose any effort to impose additional taxation or regulation of electrical power generation by coal or natural gas.
3. Urge the Federal Highway Commission to adopt the CTB's designated route for I-73, or alternatively to preserve the current record of decision in the event the CTB's route is rejected.
4. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards.
5. Request \$3.72M in funds for the redevelopment of brownfields extending from the former American Furniture and Sara Lee sites, along Aaron Street, to Rives Road.
6. Request \$6.25M in funds for the elimination and redevelopment of blighted areas in the city.
7. Request legislation to provide special federal incentives to businesses locating in regions which have experienced job losses in excess of 5% of the total workforce and/or declines in median incomes since the adoption of NAFTA, WTO or GATT. Target such areas for increased federal funding in education or workforce retraining.
8. Extend high speed broadband service throughout southern Virginia.
9. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
10. Oppose the elimination or reduction of the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

Staff Designations

City Council empowers the following staff members to speak on its behalf and in its best interests to the Virginia General Assembly and United States Congress, its members and committees:
City Attorney Eric Monday
City Manager Leon Towarnicki
Other department heads as appointed by the City Manager

Consider remaining Council meeting dates in calendar 2020 – City Manager Towarnicki explained that in 2019, Council opted to cancel the meeting during the week of Thanksgiving. Looking ahead, there are only 2 items on future Council agendas that are time sensitive the CEDS list and Legislative Agenda. Council will meet again on December 8 and could make final decisions on those time sensitive items. Council Member Bowles suggested canceling out of respect to City staff if there is no pressing business with all Council members in consensus that the meeting would be cancelled but could be called if necessary.

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

November 10, 2020 Council Meeting

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 11/10/20				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
FY2021				
General Fund:				
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - PD		18,318
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - CA		4,710
01311085	506078	Police Dept - State Asset Forfeitures	18,318	
01221082	506105	Commonwealth's Atty - State Asset Forfeitures	4,710	
		Forfeited assets from Commonwealth		
01102926	405555	Brownfields Grant - EPA		4,342
01812247	503136	Brownfields - Hazardous - Consultant	527	
01812249	503136	Brownfields - Petroleum - Consultant	3,815	
		Requisition #9		
01101917	442601	Categorical Other State - EMS Four for Life		2,431
01322105	506114	EMS - Four For Life	2,431	
		Additional funding		
01103938	462101	Contribution from Fund Balance		8,400
01331108	506010	Sheriff-Corrections - Radios/Weapons	8,400	
		Re-appropriation of remaining funds		
Total General Fund:			38,201	38,201

Business from the Floor – No requests for comment were received

Comments by City Council – Council Member Turner reminded residents that tomorrow is Veterans Day. The City will honor two local veterans at Druid Hills School beginning at 11:00am; he will be joined by Mayor Lawson, Senator Stanley and Congressman Griffith. BTW will broadcast LIVE since there is a 15-person limit at this event. Other events have been cancelled due to forecasted heavy rains. Vice Mayor Martin congratulated Tammy Pearson on her win for City Council. Council Member Bowles congratulated Mayor Lawson and Vice Mayor Martin on their reelection and Pearson on her win; Bowles looks forward to working with them all. Bowles said it takes courage to step up for your community and she's learned a lot from Council Member Woods since he joined Council. Bowles said that it has been an honor and pleasure to have worked with Woods and he is a wonderful role-model for local youth. Mayor Lawson extend appreciation to the Registrar and election officials on their long hours and diligence during the recent election. Christmas Cheer is accepting applications through Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Lawson said that there will be a Christmas parade but it will be a drive thru and a little different this year; Lawson called it a "reverse" event to be held on December 4 along with the City tree lighting.

Comments by the City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki reminded Council and residents that Veteran's Day is a holiday so municipal building will be closed. He shared details on utility cutoffs; 2 weeks ago, there were 30 disconnects, 233 new payment arrangements, and 225 DSS customers claiming \$88,000 in funding. This past week there have been 34 disconnects, 258 customers have applied for DSS funding claiming \$100,068 in assistance to help with utility bills. There are still numerous delinquent accounts but the list is gradually coming down. The Chief Tassell building project is underway and interior demolition has begun. The City has partnered with Nationwide Homes on a housing project; through a half-

November 10, 2020 Council Meeting

million-dollar housing grant, there will be townhomes and multifamily units built on Church Street. These units will be in the \$120-\$140,000 price range. This new project allows the City to use vacant property and it allows a \$4 million new residential investment which also contributes additional revenue in utilities and taxes. This project also allows Nationwide Homes to showcase their products. Grading and utilities will begin on this project next week. They hope to set 5 homes in that area by the end of 2020. There will be a ground-breaking event set for November 18. The Aaron Street project is moving forward; a demolition contract has been executed and will begin the week after Thanksgiving. Landmark is still discussing the option to begin their housing project once demolition is complete. The auditors will be here December 8 for their annual audit presentation; Council will meet with them prior to the Council meeting with questions. Kris Bridges shared details of the 702 Mulberry home which was listed on the demolition list; the contractor has been working diligently on that property and it's becoming a stunning location. They now have a certificate of occupancy and the property has been sold.

City Attorney Monday explained that at the last session of the General Assembly, they created a Commission of 23 people around the state to plan commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Monday was offered a position on the commission and has accepted this 7-year long commitment to serve. He noted "the Revolution was more than white guys in wigs, it involved women and African Americans." Several years ago Monday proposal a bill to Senator Stanley to change the laws to recognize every single revolutionary war veteran in Virginia, including native American, African-Americans, and females. The bill became law and Virginia is the only state in the Union that recognizes the graves of all patriots. Monday is the only person south of Richmond and west of Tidewater to be appointed to the Commission.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Martin with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor